



UNITED STATES SENATOR ★ SERVING THE CITIZENS OF IDAHO

LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 19, 2005

Dan Whiting (202) 224-8078

CRAIG, OTHERS OFFER PATRIOT ACT SOLUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The four Republican Senators who voted against ending debate on the USA PATRIOT Act reauthorization urged Majority Leader Frist and Chairman Specter to work to temporarily extend the expiring provisions of the Patriot Act until early next year. The four Senators: Larry Craig, R-Idaho; Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.; and John Sununu, R-N.H., sent a letter outlining their request and reasoning.

In the letter, the four stated:

“We write to express our profound disappointment that many important provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act will expire on December 31. We agree with the President that it is inexcusable for the Senate to not re-authorize this important law.

“We believe that if key changes to the conference report were made, the re-authorization would overwhelmingly pass the Senate. As one of many alternatives, the Senate could pass a three-month extension to allow more time for negotiations. Or the Senate could take up and pass a bill similar to the Senate version passed with unanimous support earlier this year.

“We note the House of Representatives may return on December 22, making all these options viable.”

A copy of the entire letter is attached. Senator Craig addressed this very issue earlier today on the floor. To listen to his remarks, please visit <http://craig.senate.gov/clips>.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2005

The Honorable William H. Frist, M.D.
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Frist and Chairman Specter:

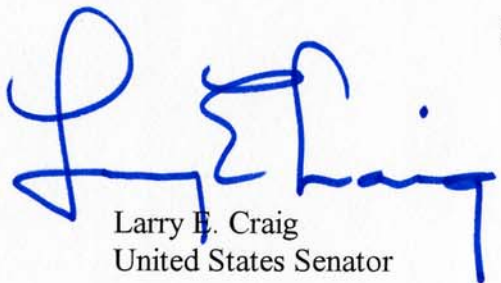
We write to express our profound disappointment that many important provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act will expire on December 31. We agree with the President that it is inexcusable for the Senate to not re-authorize this important law.

As you know, we are pursuing changes that have been previously supported by a unanimous Senate and nearly half of the U.S. House of Representatives. We have never sought a full repeal or expiration of these provisions and would like to continue negotiations.


We believe that if key changes to the conference report were made, the re-authorization would overwhelmingly pass the Senate. As one of many alternatives, the Senate could pass a three-month extension to allow more time for negotiations. Or the Senate could take up and pass a bill similar to the Senate version passed with unanimous support earlier this year.

We note the House of Representatives may return on December 22, making all these options viable. Therefore, it is still possible for Congress to extend these provisions, and we urge you to exert your leadership to that end, in the interests of our nation.

Sincerely,




Larry E. Craig
United States Senator



John Sununu
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Chuck Hagel
United States Senator